

PLT Outline 2011-12

October 21st: Introduction to Project Based Learning: Use this first meeting to explore project based learning. Watch the video clips; explore the websites. Use discussion and exploration to attain an understanding of what makes a good and effective project. Spend some time brainstorming possible projects. Choose some of your favorite ideas (2-3) and write a brief synopsis each project. Post on your wiki page. Between this meeting and the next, please take the time to read and comment on project choices for the other PLT's. Offer advice on possible obstacles, ways to enhance projects, variations, and which project you think would be most effective.

December 2nd: Read comments from colleagues. Choose best project. Begin to write a unit outline and start to plan assessments and rubrics. You can also begin to discuss sample lessons. A good way to proceed with writing the unit is to start with a standard (this will be the main standard on which the project is based; other standards can be incorporated). Write an essential question linked to the standard. Create an assessment. Does the assessment evaluate mastery of the standard? Does it answer the essential question? You can use the “unpacking the standards” template to analyze what skills and knowledge the students are being asked to master.

January 6th: Refine and polish your plans. Add resources for implementation. Decide if your project will require the assistance of experts. Experts can be professionals from the field, scholars, or even shop students with solid content knowledge. Complete your wiki page, and get set for takeoff!

Meetings 4-6 (February 10th, March 23rd, May 4th): Complete the same steps from semester one. In addition to creating the second project, please refine projects from semester one as they are implemented. If you are implementing a project from another PLT, please offer comments and ideas on the discussion page. Revise as needed.